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ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

[Correspondence of the Balt. American.]

CAMP NEAR BEALETON, VA., April 19th, 1863.—The Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac was ordered to be ready, with all its available force, with eight days' rations and eight days' short forage on pack mules, to march at daylight on the 13th inst. Whither we were to go was kept a profound secret.—We moved off as ordered, our ranks of fours stretching for miles on the winding way, and, with their bright armor and white grain-sacks, looking like some huge checkered and glittering serpent crawling among the hills. The first day we reached White Oak Church, and bivouacked in the woods. The next day we made Bealeton, near the Rappahannock, a few miles from Freeman's, Foxville, and Lawson's Fords.

A squadron of the 1st Maine Cavalry was immediately sent to secure Freeman's Ford, but just as they rode into the river a squadron of Confederate cavalry dashed out of the woods, down to the river, jumped from their horses into their rifle-pits, and opened fire upon them. At the same time the Confederates brought their artillery to bear upon our men, and thus secured to themselves the ford. The Regular Battery M was rushed to the river, supported by a squadron of the 1st Maryland Cavalry, under command of Lt. Col. Deems. A brief artillery duel followed, but it amounted to nothing, and we were ordered back into camp at Bealeton.

The next morning we moved on to the ford again, Gen. Averill having the advance. But it had been raining all night, was still raining in torrents, the river had risen and was still rising rapidly, and it was not deemed practicable to cross; so we were ordered to go into camp in the Woods near the river.

After dark it was discovered that a small stream had so swollen as to cut off our communication with Gen. Stoneman's headquarters. During the day the Confederate cavalry had been into Bealeton and captured a few of our stragglers. Gen. Stoneman, with his staff and body guard, was cut off, with his right flank entirely exposed to another Confederate raid. The 1st Regiment Maryland Cavalry and a squadron of the 12th Illinois were ordered to cross the stream and report to General Stoneman. Under the guidance of an Aide-de-Camp they came to the Young river. The night was dark; the rain fell in torrents. We could hear the flood thundering by, but could not discern its banks. All hands halted. It took more courage to cross that stream than to fight a battle. Col. Deems called for a volunteer to lead the way; but no man stepped forward. At length our gallant little Major Russell rode to the head of the column and asked, "What are the orders?" "To cross that stream," replied Colonel Deems "Well," said the fearless Major, "if any man can cross that river I can," and he dashed in, closely followed by Col. Deems.

After two unsuccessful attempts, their horses plunging, and whining, and snorting, in the darkness, they succeeded in reaching the opposite bank, and then shouted to their men to follow. Two squadrons followed, or rather attempted to follow, some of their horses floating down stream, some turning back, some

being drowned. About one half got over.—Our ammunition, our crackers, our boots and pockets were all filled with water.

We went and reported to Gen. Stoneman, and were sent immediately to picket and scout the country, which we did all night long and all the next day, shivering the while in our wet clothes. I regret to say that we had one man drowned and five horses, but we proved the pluck of the 1st Maryland Cavalry. Nearly all the boys thought we were crossing the Rappahannock.

We have all retired from the river. The flood has knocked us. Our grand cavalry move has proved an abortion, and that petted and spoiled child, the Army of the Potomac, is an unfortunate child still.

HOW GEORGE SANDERS' MAIL WAS CAPTURED.—It now appears that the late despatches of the Confederate Government captured in Charleston harbor, were intercepted through the instrumentality of Lieutenant Arnold Harris, of the navy, who went to Richmond at the request of the Government, to frustrate, if possible, the projects of George Sanders for obtaining naval vessels for the Confederates in England. "At Richmond, Harris managed to ingratiate himself with Sanders and the authorities, and when Sanders had completed his arrangements for visiting England to carry out his plan Harris induced him to proceed by way of Matamoros to Halifax, leaving his documents and despatches to be run through the Charleston blockade by Reid Sanders and himself, and taken to Halifax by way of Nassau. A yacht was bought and loaded with turpentine, and the two set sail from Charleston in fine spirits. Before sailing, however, Harris communicated with the blockading fleet, and when the yacht ran out she was greeted by a cannonade, which frightened young Sanders, and made him eager to surrender. The mail bag, heavily freighted with iron, was thrown overboard; but Harris had previously abstracted from it a portmanteau containing the despatches and documents, substituting in its stead his own, which happened, as a remarkable coincidence, of course, to be its exact counterpart."—N. Y. Post.

It is understood that Governor Curtin is to have the mission to Spain, and that John Covode is to be the Union candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania.

On Monday, while the artillery was being inspected by General Hunt, near Falmouth, a caisson loaded with shells exploded, wounding four men—one dangerously.

R. W. Shufeldt, Consul-General at Havana, has resigned, on account of the inadequacy of his salary. His successor has not yet been appointed.

Edward Davis, free negro, and Robert Jones, set county, Md., and a slave named Morris, of a fugitive slave, convicted of murder in Somerset the same county, convicted of an outrage on a female, have been sentenced to be hung. One of the condemned, Robert Jones, is a fugitive slave from Cone river, Va., in which State he is said to have murdered his master.

It is understood that Speaker Callicot of New York has been arrested on a charge connected with his conduct as a legislator; thirty or forty members of the assembly and others, have been subpoenaed as witnesses.

Accounts from all parts of Great Britain agree in stating that the emigration this year will probably be larger than that of any one of the previous three or four years. Hundreds of small proprietors are selling out and preparing to leave. From Ireland the emigration will be large.

Since Friday last, Mr. George Bell, residing in Washington, has lost four children out of five, and the remaining one is lying very low, of the disease commonly known as the "spotted fever." On Thursday night the oldest child, about ten years of age, was taken, and died in about twelve hours, and another was taken and died a few hours after. These were buried on Saturday. On Monday morning two others were taken, and died on Monday night. The last one was taken on Monday afternoon, and still survives, with but little hope of recovery. The first symptoms of the disease are chilly sensations, followed by a fever which prostrates the system. The victims rarely live more than twelve hours, and these children all died about thirteen hours after the attack, with the exception of the last. About the time death takes place, eruptions break out on the body.

A sale of U. S. Government iron took place at Alexandria on Wednesday. The first lot consisted of 78 tons, 2,240 per ton, at 50 per ton; thirty tons of car-axes, at 70½ per ton; eighty-five tons of cast-iron scraps, 32½ per ton; ten tons of car springs 80½; thirty tons of flat rails, at 59½ per ton.

The Washington correspondent of the Northern papers says:—"It is very evident that the military authorities regard Washington as the permanent 'base of operations' for an immense army for two or three years to come, as barracks and buildings are being erected on a large scale. We have hospitals, offices, quarters, workshops of all kinds, horse depots, and scores of other one story edifices. Proposals are invited for furnishing one million feet of joists, scantlings and boards; so we may expect to see further additions to the government edifices. This large amount of lumber is to be delivered within thirty days after the contracts are signed."

The administration has never been fully satisfied with Governor Stanly, of North Carolina, and determined some time since to appoint his successor. D. R. Goodloe, a native of the state, and one of the emancipation commission in the district, will probably be appointed. Governor Stanly is now in Washington.

The other night a member of the Pennsylvania regiment on picket in Hooker's army, complained of feeling ill. The surgeon of the regiment was called, when there was some whispering instituted. The sick soldier was a woman, enciente, of course. The result of the surgeon's work was the delivery of a fine boy. Gen. Joseph Owen named the child Picket-Falmouth Ellsworth.

The final count on the amended Constitution of West Virginia was made on Thursday last, and sums up, in the thirty-eight counties heard from, 28,321 for amendment, and 572 against it.